



## Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

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### FINAL MINUTES FOR EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Held on April 1, 2008

9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

#### **Board Members**

William R. Martin III, M.D., Chair  
Douglas D. Lee, M.D., Vice Chair  
Dona Pardo, Ph.D., R.N., Secretary  
Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Patricia R.J. Griffen  
Andrea E. Ibáñez  
Ram R. Krishna, M.D.  
Todd A. Lefkowitz, M.D.  
Lorraine L. Mackstaller, M.D.  
Paul M. Petelin Sr., M.D.  
Germaine Proulx  
Amy J. Schneider, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The following Board Members participated telephonically: Dr. Goldfarb, Ms. Griffen, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lefkowitz, Dr. Mackstaller, Dr. Martin, Dr. Pardo, and Ms. Proulx. The following Board Members were absent: Ms. Ibáñez, Dr. Petelin, and Dr. Schneider.

Anne Froedge, Assistant Attorney General, also participated telephonically.

#### **CALL TO PUBLIC**

Statements issued during the call to public appear beneath the case referenced.

NO.	CASE NO.	COMPLAINANT v PHYSICIAN	LIC. #	RESOLUTION
1.	MD-08-0243A	AMB IIANGO VAN GOVINDARAJAN, M.D.	25797	Continue the meeting to allow Board Members the opportunity to review all investigative material. The meeting shall be held on April 3, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

On March 28, 2008, the Board received notification from the Kingman Police Department (KPD) that Dr. Govindarajan had been arrested and charged with ten felony counts of aggravated assault, nine felony counts of sexual abuse and one misdemeanor count of assault. It was alleged that Dr. Govindarajan had engaged in inappropriate conduct with female co-workers at Kingman Regional Medical Center (KRMCC) that included offensive hugging, touching of the breast and buttock, as well as other sexual contact. A pattern of similar behavior by Dr. Govindarajan for over the past ten years was established, based upon statements from twelve of his female co-workers at KRMCC. Board Staff received additional information from KPD that two patients, upon hearing of his arrest, reported that Dr. Govindarajan acted improperly as their physician through inappropriate physical contact.

In 2005, Dr. Govindarajan met with the CEO and Chief of Staff at KRMCC and was warned that his hugging made some staff members uncomfortable. Dr. Govindarajan denied that he did anything more than occasionally hug his female co-workers at KRMCC. KRMCC's Human Resources Department investigated the current complaints and interviewed thirty-three employees. During the interviews, Dr. Govindarajan's name was not given and the employees were asked if they had experienced any situations involving inappropriate touching. Twelve co-workers came forward and stated that they had been involved in an uncomfortable situation regarding Dr. Govindarajan's inappropriate touching. Board Staff requested the Board summarily suspend Dr. Govindarajan's license while the investigation continues to determine whether there is a preponderance of evidence to support the claims that resulted in felony charges.

Dr. Govindarajan participated telephonically with legal counsel, Mr. Kraig Marton. Mr. Marton addressed the Board during the call to public and referred Board members to several letters of support for Dr. Govindarajan. Mr. Marton stated none of the twelve women followed KRMC's protocol in reporting these incidents in accordance with the hospital's policy. Mr. Marton further stated that none of the twelve women informed Dr. Govindarajan that his actions were inappropriate or made them uncomfortable. He stated that following Dr. Govindarajan's arrest, he was ordered not to come into contact with the twelve women. Mr. Marton stated this should address the Board's issues and urged the Board to fully investigate the matter rather than summarily suspend Dr. Govindarajan's license.

Lisa Wynn, Executive Director, informed the Board that Dr. Govindarajan and his attorney met with Board Staff on April 1, 2008 and he was provided the opportunity to sign an Interim Consent Agreement for a Practice Restriction, but Dr. Govindarajan declined to sign the Agreement. Drs. Krishna, Lefkowitz and Mackstaller stated they did not have the opportunity to review all of the investigative material provided to them.

**MOTION: Dr. Goldfarb moved to enter into executive session.**

**SECONDED: Dr. Krishna**

**Vote: 9-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.**

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Board went into Executive Session for legal advice at 12:31 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:46 p.m.

No deliberations or discussions were made during Executive Session.

**MOTION: Dr. Goldfarb moved to continue the meeting to allow Board members the opportunity to review all investigative material. The meeting will be held on April 2, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.**

**SECONDED: Dr. Krishna**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Roll call vote was taken and the following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Goldfarb, Ms. Griffen, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lefkowitz, Dr. Mackstaller, Dr. Martin, Dr. Pardo, and Ms. Proulx. The following Board members were absent: Ms. Ibáñez, Dr. Petelin, and Dr. Schneider.

**VOTE: 9-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.**

**MOTION PASSED.**



The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa S. Wynn".

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Lisa S. Wynn, Executive Director